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CLAIMS

The invention is hereby claimed as follows:

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A method for determining an award in a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) maintaining a list of award yielding symbols and symbol combinations in a controller;
 - (b) generating a set of symbols;
 - (c) providing an award for each symbol and symbol combination of said list appearing in said set;
 - (d) replacing one or more symbols in said set; and
 - (e) providing an award for each symbol and symbol combination of said list appearing in said set.

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2. The method of Claim 1, wherein generating a set of symbols includes randomly generating said set.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein generating a set of symbols includes an animation of the symbols used for the replacement of said symbols.

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4. The method of Claim 1, wherein generating a set of symbols includes a second spinning of the symbols on a reel used for the replacement of said symbols.

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said reel as part of said set, and wherein said wild symbol stands in the place of every symbol on said list.

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5 15. The method of Claim 1, wherein replacing one or more symbols in said set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one symbol on a row of symbols of a slot machine, and wherein said wild symbol stands in the place of at least one symbol on said list.

10 16. The method of Claim 1, wherein replacing one or more symbols in said set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one symbol on a row of symbols of a slot machine, wherein said slot machine generated said wild symbol on said row as part of said set, and wherein said wild symbol stands in the place of at least one symbol on said list.

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5 17. A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining in a controller of said gaming device a list of symbols and symbol combinations that yield an award if generated by said gaming device;

20 (b) generating a set of symbols, wherein one of said symbols is a wild symbol;

(c) providing an award for each symbol and symbol combination of said list appearing in said set, wherein said

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wild symbol stands in the place of at least one symbol on said list;

(d) substituting said wild symbol for one or more symbols in said set; and

5 (e) providing an award for each symbol and symbol combination of said list appearing in said set, wherein each wild symbol stands in the place of at least one symbol on said list.

10 18. The method of Claim 17, wherein generating a set of symbols includes randomly generating said set.

15 19. The method of Claim 17, wherein substituting said wild symbol for one or more symbols in said set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one symbol on a reel of a slot machine, said reel including said generated wild symbol.

20 20. The method of Claim 17, wherein substituting said wild symbol for one or more symbols in said set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one symbol on a row of symbols of a slot machine, said row including said generated wild symbol.

21. The method of Claim 17, wherein substituting said wild symbol for one or more symbols in said set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one symbol on a reel and at least one symbol on a row of symbols of a slot machine, said reel and said row including said generated wild symbol.

22. The method of Claim 17, wherein substituting said wild symbol for one or more symbols in said set includes substituting a wild symbol for at least one other particular symbol of said gaming device.

23. A method for operating a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) maintaining in a controller of said gaming device a list of playing cards and playing card combinations that yield an award if generated by said gaming device;
- (b) generating a set of playing cards, wherein one of said playing cards is a wildcard;
- (c) providing an award for each playing card and playing card combination of said list appearing in said set, including said wildcard and combinations including said wildcard appearing on said list;
- (d) equating said wildcard to one or more playing cards in said set; and

(e). providing an award for each playing card and playing card combination of said list appearing in said set, wherein each wildcard stands in the place of one or more playing cards on said list.

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24. The method of Claim 23, wherein generating a set of playing cards includes randomly generating said set.

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